

**RECEIVED**

JUN 25 1997

June 24, 1997

Robert L. Morgan, P.E.  
State Engineer  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 220  
Box 146300  
SLC, UT, 84114-6300

**WATER RIGHTS  
SALT LAKE**

Re: June 26<sup>th</sup> Water Users Meeting

Dear Mr. Morgan,

Thank you for the notice of the June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting which, as we understand it, is intended to begin the process of appointing a new water commissioner or commissioners to replace Mr. Edward Higbee. Unfortunately my wife, Judith Lamb-Lion, and I are scheduled out of town on business at that time. This letter will serve as our participation in that meeting.

We are relieved to hear that your office is planning a series of meeting before making a final decision. We applaud such a judicious approach. However, we are still concerned that a SLC employee might be appointed as the interim commissioner. We raised a number of concerns regarding the appointment of a SLC employee as a water commissioner in our letter to you dated June 10, a copy of which is attached.

The bottom line is that the water commissioner should be able to represent the concerns and interests of the residents and businesses located in unincorporated Salt Lake County. Up until now, we have been completely disenfranchised. We can not vote for Salt Lake City Mayor. We can not vote for Salt Lake City Council members. And we certainly don't have a say in the operations of the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities. This is not a request for special treatment. It is a request for fair, equitable and objective treatment; something we have not and can not be afforded if the water commissioner is an employee, and therefore, an agent of Salt Lake City.

With respect to annual water assessments to fund the position and work of the water commissioner, I submit that such assessments are already in place as part of Salt Lake City's water rates, which for the unincorporated county are one and one-half times that charged to city residents. Perhaps the State Engineer's Office could simply contract with Salt Lake City to continue collecting these assessments and simply bill the city accordingly. Of course, there are some properties which do not receive

water under a surplus water agreement with Salt Lake City. These properties would have to be billed directly.

Please provide us with a copy of any written material distributed at the meeting and a copy of any transcript of minutes made of the meeting.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Vanier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Vanier & Judith Lamb-Lion